

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 08540 211119Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 /066 W
----- 078801 /20

O R 211040Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4176
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 8540

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: CABINET CRISIS: RABIN RESIGNS

1. PRIME MINISTER RABIN SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT KATZIR AT 2315 DECEMBER 20. HIS RESIGNATION MEANS THE AUTOMATIC RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE CABINET, WHICH NOW BECOMES A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT.
 2. RABIN'S DECISION TO RESIGN RECEIVED THE UNANIMOUS BACKING OF A JOINT MEETING OF ALIGNMENT KNESSET MEMBERS AND LABOR AND MAPAM PARTY LEADERSHIP BUREAUX WHICH WAS HELD BEFORE THE RESIGNATION WAS SUBMITTED. RABIN TOLD THE MEETING THAT HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN WAS THE INEVITABLE OUTCOME OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY LAST WEEK'S NO CONFIDENCE VOTE. HE DESCRIBED THE EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE F-15'S AND THE SUBSEQUENT VOTE BY THE NRP. HE OPPOSED THE IDEA OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT "ESPECIALLY NOT IN AN ELECTION YEAR," AND SAID HE HAD, THEREFORE, REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE KNESSET MUST BE DISSOLVED.
 3. REGARDING THE ELECTIONS, RABIN SAID: "I DO NOT PROPOSE
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08540 211119Z

THAT WE DECIDE ON A DEFINITE DATE NOW, ALTHOUGH THAT DECISION SHOULD NOT BE PUT OFF TOO LONG. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE MOVEMENT PROCESS BEGUN BY US--INTERNAL ELECTIONS, CONVENING OF THE PARTY CONVENTION AND ELECTING THE INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES--ALL THESE CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT AFFECTING THE MOVING FORWARD OF THE ELECTIONS."

4. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS, RABIN WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED TO WAIT A FEW MORE DAYS BEFORE SUBMITTING HIS
RESIGNATION, BUT HE TOOK THE DECISIVE STEP TO AVOID BEING
DEFEATED ON A NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE WHICH THE LIKUD HAD TABLED
FOR DEBATE IN THE KNESSET THIS AFTERNOON. HIS DEFEAT SEEMED
SURE AFTER THE ALIGNMENT'S BID FOR THE SUPPORT OR ABSTENTION
OF THE SMALLER KNESSET FACTIONS FAILED TO PRODUCE RESULTS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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